

(42 U.S.C. 1395i) and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t).

(b) **REPORT.**—The Commission shall submit its report to the President and the Congress not later than December 31, 1996.

SEC. 4. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Upon request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(c) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

SEC. 5. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) **PRIVATE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), all members of the Commission who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation for their work on the Commission.

(B) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Commission who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, to the extent funds are available therefor.

(b) **STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairman of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. At the request of the Chairman, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Commission with any necessary administrative and support services. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—The Chairman of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(c) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(d) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairman of

the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

SEC. 6. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under section 2(b).

SEC. 7. FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION.

Any expenses of the Commission shall be paid from such funds as may be otherwise available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 216

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 216, a bill to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment.

S. 230

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES] was added as a cosponsor of S. 230, a bill to prohibit U.S. assistance to countries that prohibit or restrict the transport of delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide clarification for the deductibility of expenses incurred by a taxpayer in connection with the business use of the home.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. SIMON, the name of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 457, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to update references in the classification of children for purposes of U.S. immigration laws.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to provide for the payment to States of plot allowances for certain veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery who are buried in cemeteries of such States.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the general mining laws to provide a reasonable royalty from mineral activities on Federal lands, to specify reclamation requirements for mineral activities on Federal lands, to create a State program for the reclamation of abandoned hard rock mining sites on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 515

At the request of Mr. BRADLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

[Mr. LEAHY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 515, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to provide for improved public health and food safety through the reduction of harmful substances in meat and poultry that present a threat to public health, and for other purposes.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to provide quality standards for mammograms performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFFEE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local firefighters and law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 580

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 580, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to control illegal immigration to the United States, reduce incentives for illegal immigration, reform asylum procedures, strengthen criminal penalties for the smuggling of aliens, and reform other procedures.

S. 641

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. HEFLIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to increase the amount of credit available to fuel local, regional, and national economic growth by reducing the regulatory burden imposed upon financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 733

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 733, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to permit States to use Federal highway funds for capital improvements to, and operating support for, intercity passenger rail service, and for other purposes.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. EXON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to provide that certain games of chance conducted by a nonprofit organization not be treated as an unrelated business of such organization.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12—HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OF BURMESE WOMEN AND GIRLS

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas credible reports indicate that thousands of Burmese women and girls are being trafficked into Thailand with false promises of good paying jobs in restaurants or factories, and then forced to work in brothels under slavery-like conditions that include sexual and physical violence, debt bondage, exposure to HIV, passport deprivation, and illegal confinement;

Whereas credible reports also indicate that members of the Thai police force are often actively involved in, and profit from, the trafficking of Burmese women and girls for the purposes of forced prostitution;

Whereas the United States Government conducts training programs for the Thai police and United States arms and equipment are sold to the Thai police;

Whereas the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women requires all States Parties "to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women";

Whereas Article 1 of the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery calls for the complete abolition or abandonment of debt bondage;

Whereas forced labor, defined under the 1930 Forced Labor Convention as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily," is internationally prohibited;

Whereas the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others finds the traffic in persons for the purposes of prostitution "incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person," and calls on States Parties to punish any person who procures for the purposes of prostitution, keeps, manages or knowingly finances a brothel, or rents premises for the prostitution of others;

Whereas Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs John Shattuck has testified that the United States "urgently needs to encourage countries in which trafficking of women and children goes on with impunity to enact new laws, and to enforce existing laws. A particular target of this stepped-up law enforcement should be government officials who participate in or condone trafficking, as well as brothel owners and traffickers"; and

Whereas Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated before the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights that "(g)uaranteeing human rights is a moral imperative with respect to both women and men": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) trafficking in persons violates the fundamental principle of human dignity, and forced prostitution involving physical coercion or debt bondage constitutes a form of forced labor and a slavery-like practice;

(2) the United States State Department should continue to press the Thai Government to strictly enforce all laws that can lead to the prosecution of those involved in trafficking and forced prostitution, includ-

ing procurers, traffickers, pimps, brothel owners, and members of the Thai police who may be complicit;

(3) the State Department should ensure that Thai police participants in the United States Government-sponsored police training programs are systematically vetted to exclude those who are implicated in trafficking and forced prostitution;

(4) the executive branch should take steps to assure that weapons and equipment provided or sold to the Thai police do not become available to members of those forces who might be involved in trafficking, forced prostitution, or abuse of women and girls who are apprehended;

(5) the State Department should urge the Thai Government to protect the rights and safety of Burmese women and girls in Thailand who are freed from brothels or who are arrested as illegal immigrants because their status as trafficking victims is unclear;

(6) the United States Agency for International Development should target a portion of its assistance to Thailand for AIDS prevention and control to the foreign population in Thailand, particularly Burmese women and girls in the Thai sex industry; and

(7) the State Department should report to Congress, within 6 months of the date of this resolution, on actions that it has taken to advocate that the Thai Government implement the above steps.

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I submit a resolution expressing the sense of Congress concerning the trafficking of Burmese women and girls into Thailand for the purpose of forced prostitution. This is identical to a resolution submitted in the House by Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER.

I have long supported steps to help improve the gross human rights violations inflicted on women around the world. I am outraged at reports from Human Rights Watch and others citing the egregious abuse of Burmese women and girls who are lured into Thailand with false promises to work at good paying jobs, and then confined in illegal brothels. These women and girls live in brutal conditions, often forced to work 18 hours a day with several different clients. They are subjected to physical and sexual abuse that makes escape practically impossible. In addition, there is virtually no health care or birth control available, and the HIV virus is rampant among these women and girls.

Reportedly, these abuses take place with the knowledge of the Thai Government and the likely involvement of the Thai police. I am deeply concerned by reports that these officials not only fail to protect these women and girls, but actually provide support to the brothels and brothel owners.

Mr. President, this resolution seeks to call attention to these abuses. In addition to stating that sex trafficking is a violation of the fundamental principle of human dignity, it encourages the State Department to press the Thai Government to enforce the laws that can lead to the prosecution of these traffickers. It also encourages the Thai Government to ensure the rights and safety of Burmese women and girls in Thailand. In addition, any weapons and equipment sold to the Thai police by

the United States should be kept out of the hands of those individuals who may be involved in trafficking these women and girls. And, finally, the United States Agency for International Development should target a portion of its assistance to Thailand for AIDS prevention and control.

We in Congress must act now to help stop these brutal practices. The savage treatment of Burmese women and girls in Thailand, and the abuses they are subjected to, must cease. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and help send a message that the trafficking and forced prostitution of women and girls around the world is simply unacceptable.●

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE COMMONSENSE LEGAL STANDARDS REFORM ACT OF 1995 COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM ACT OF 1995

ROCKEFELLER AMENDMENT NO. 686

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 645 proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product litigation, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after "Notwithstanding" and insert the following: "section 197(b)(1), the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded to a claimant in a product liability action that is subject to this title shall be the greater of—

"(1) the amount determined under section 107(b)(1); or
 "(2) \$250,000."

ROCKEFELLER AMENDMENT NO. 687

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 646 proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill H.R. 956, supra; as follows:

Strike all after "Notwithstanding" and insert the following: "section 107(b), the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded to a claimant in a product liability action that is subject to this title shall not exceed \$500,000."

ROCKEFELLER AMENDMENT NO. 688

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 647 proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill H.R. 956, supra; as follows:

Strike all after "Notwithstanding" and insert the following: "section 107(b)(1), the amount of punitive damages that may be